

Message Text

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COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/SMCONGER

COM/BIC/OED/MEPD/JMSANDS, DIR.

COM/BIC/OIM (INFO)

ARA/NC/TSONANDRES

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R 220251Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: A) CARACAS 349, B) STATE 006175, C) CARACAS 13203,

--- D) STATE 009488, E) 75 CARACAS A-206 F) CARACAS 1356

1. WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILED STATUS REPORT ON PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLANS, INCLUDING PROGRESS ON STUDIES (UNDERSTAND BATELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE STUDY SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BY NOW) AND PREPARATION OF NEW PETROCHEM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. SINCE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED COPIES OF PLAN, ASSUME IT IS NOT YET COMPLETED. HOWEVER, EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PROBABLE PROJECT PRIORITIES WOULD BE WELCOME AT THIS TIME.

2. RUMORS THAT IVP WILL BE ABOLISHED HAVE CAUSED CONCERN ON PART OF U.S. FIRMS WHICH HAVE INVESTMENT JOINT VENTURES WITH IVP ON CURRENTLY OPERATING PETRO-CHEM PLANTS. WOULD LIKE INFO ON IVP'S PRESENT AND
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PROBABLE FUTURE STATUS, AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT ON CURRENT US/IVP JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENTS.

3. ALSO NEED ASAP RUNDOWN ON KEY OFFICIALS NOW RESPONSIBLE FOR PETROCHEM DEVELOPMENT. HAVE HEARD THAT AN ANGEL BERANS, PETROVEN COORDINATOR FOR REFINERIES, HAS BEEN GIVEN TEMPORARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PETROCHEMICALS IN PETROVEN. PLEASE CONFIRM OR ADVISE OF OTHER PETROVEN OFFICIALS WITH THIS AUTHORITY. ALSO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FUTURE ROLE OF CONIP AND FURTHER INFO ON PLAN TO REVIVE PENTACOM SCHEME (PER REF C).
KISSINGER

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